

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed November 4, 2002, has been received and reviewed. Claims 1 through 30 are currently pending and stand rejected. No claims have been amended. In view of the arguments made hereinafter, the applicant contends that Claims 1 through 30 are in condition for allowance and the same is respectfully requested.

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

Please note that a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement was filed herein on November 11, 1999, and that no copy of the PTO-1449 was returned with the outstanding Office Action. Applicant respectfully requests that the information cited on the PTO-1449 be made of record herein. For the sake of convenience, a second copy of the November 11, 1999, Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449, and USPTO date-stamped postcard are enclosed herewith. It is respectfully requested that an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 evidencing consideration of the cited references be returned to the undersigned attorney.

35 U.S.C. § 101 Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1 through 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of prior U.S. Patent Application No. 438692, of which the present application is a reissue application. More specifically, the Examiner contends that "the subject matter of these claims has already been allowed in the [U.S. Patent No. 5,686,762]" and "the claims of the reissue application no longer correct an error that was present in the Patent."

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. As stated in the Reissue Declaration, filed November 11, 1999, "Applicant believes the original patent to be partly inoperative or invalid by reason of the patentee claiming more or less than patentee had the right to claim in the patent." (Reissue Declaration at pg. 2). More specifically, "Applicant believes that the claims of the original application are too narrow in that the product-by-process claims and claims to a bond pad were erroneously omitted from the original application. The patentee wishes to add these claims as per 35 U.S.C. § 251." (*Id.*) (emphasis added). Claims 17-26 are drawn to an improved bond pad. Claims 27-30 are drawn to a semiconductor device having an improved bond pad and

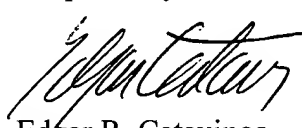
having a different scope than claims 1-16 of issued U.S. Patent No. 5,686,762. As such, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's contention that the added claims are of the same scope in subject matter as that in the previously issued U.S. Patent No. 5,686,762.

Moreover, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's contention that the reissue application no longer corrects an error that was present in the patent. As described in the Reissue Declaration, the new claims specifically address those errors expressly identified by the applicant in the Reissue Declaration (*i.e.*, claims to a bond pad and claims to a semiconductor device having the improved bond pads). As such, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request that the same be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing arguments made, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and early notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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